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Physical Education Male and Female Students Outlook towards Information Technology in Indian Higher Education Institutions

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Abstract: ***The purpose of the study was to investigate the outlook of male and female students studying in master of Physical Education from higher institutions in India. For this study total six hundred (600) student male (367) and female (233) selected as a subjects. The students who were pursuing Master of Physical Education (previous/final) in different Institution were delimited for this study. Computer Attitude Scale (CAS) developed by Tahira Khatoon & Manika Sharma, Department of Education, Aligarh Muslim University (2007), were used to know the outlook of students towards computers. The responses obtained from students of different Physical Education institutions were converted into simple percentage for the purpose of analysis and interpretation of the data. To analyse the collected data 't' test was used to compare outlook of male and female students towards computers. Statistical analysis were performed using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) version 19, a product of IBM.nic in order to compare all the above. The level of significance was set at .05. The study reveals that, there is insignificant difference between male and female students studying in master of Physical Education from different higher education in India towards computers.***

Keywords: Information Technology, Computers, Physical Education, outlook.

I. INTRODUCTION

There is a vast use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in all spheres of human endeavor which is playing very substantial roles in nations' improvement. The quickly growing impact of ICT has brought about a revolutionary change in every aspect of human life (Kamal, 2002). Undeniably, the world is progressively becoming an information society and profoundly trusting on the use of ICT as a means of communication and transacting business (Senzige & Sarukesi, 2001). In fact, the future of every economy and its citizen's fortune are strongly correlated with ICT integration in every aspect of life (Anderson, 2010). Advanced and emerging nations alike have realized that computers are useful tools which have special effects on individuals and civilizations. The realization of ICT as a most viable tool for development has inspired countries to bring together ICT education at all levels of education. Countries have capitalized and continue to capitalize significantly in IT including hardware, software and people ware. They have accordingly developed policies on ICT to boost mass participation of students in computer education. Information Communication Technology certainly has been realized to have effects on how people learn, what people know and where people obtain knowledge and information (National Science Foundation, 2000).

In India, ICT education has been incorporated into the curricula of all levels of education in the school system as well as at higher education apparently due to its contributions to human resource and nations' development. One of the ideas of the policy is to improve a pool of knowledgeable ICT workforce in critical skills areas and professions that would be able to contribute to the process of the development of India's information and knowledge economy. ICT is taught as a stand-alone subject, which is compulsory for all students at certain levels. It is observed that to make the learning of ICT very effective, the Ministry of

Human Resource Development (MHRD) has been providing appropriate instructional resources to schools and higher educational Institutions. The government policy on ICT for accelerated development program has been a stimulus for ICT education in India. Beside this background, students may be expected to be positively inclined to the study of the subject in all levels. Educators are also expected to realize the significance of shaping students' outlooks positively toward ICT at all levels of education.

II. Problem Statement

The purpose of the study was to associate the outlook of male and female students of Physical Education towards computers in Indian higher education institutions. A survey type study was designed to find out the outlook of male and female students of Physical Education towards computers in Institutions of Higher Education. The study was delimited to male and female students studying in Master of Physical Education from different Institutions in India. It was hypothesized that there may not be significant difference between outlooks of male and female students toward computers.

III. Research Method

For the purpose of this study 6 University based institutions and 5 Non-University based Institutions in India were carefully chosen during the academic session 2008-09 and 2009-10. Computer Attitude Scale (CAS) developed by Tahira Khatoon & Manika Sharma, Department of Education, Aligarh Muslim University (2007), were used to know the outlook of students towards computers. The CAS consists of five areas as computer anxiety (2, 7, 11, and 18), computer confidence (3, 9, 14, and 19), computer interest (1, 8, 12, and 17), computer as a useful tool (5, 6, 15, and 16) and computer career (4, 10, 13, and 20).

Sr. No.	Area	Condition	Item wise Serial No.	Total	
1.	Computer Anxiety	Positive	----	----	4
		Negative	2, 7, 11, 18	4	
2.	Computer Confidence	Positive	3, 19	2	4
		Negative	9, 14	2	
3.	Computer Interest	Positive	1, 8, 12	3	4
		Negative	17	1	
4.	Computer as a useful tool	Positive	5, 6, 15, 16	4	4
		Negative	----	----	
5.	Computer Career	Positive	10, 13	2	4
		Negative	4, 20	2	
				TOTAL	**20**

Attitude towards computers in this study were referred by the collective impact of these five attitudinal constructs. Each area covers four items in five-point Likert response format. The reliability of the scale is .93 as well as the test retains content and constructs validity.

The total of 600 responses, that is, male students (367) and female students (233) were obtained. The responses obtained from Students of different Physical Education institutions were converted into average common scores from each respondent. Further, the data were converted into simple percentage for the purpose of analysis and interpretation of the data. The raw scores were statistically analyzed in terms of means and standard deviation. Later, 't' test was used to compare outlook of male and female students. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) version 19, a product of IBM.nic in order to compare the above. The level of significance was set at .05.

IV. Analysis and Results

The results of the study are presented in Tables. The gender distribution of respondents of the study is presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Category of Subjects	Number of respondents	Max. possible scores of respondents	Obtained average score of respondents	Percentage
Students Male	367	1835	1419.15	77.33%
Students Female	233	1165	905.35	77.71%

As per the mean scores shown in table 2 comparing male and female students on outlook towards computers, a statistically Non-Significant difference was found between them, as they obtained 't' value .455 is much lower than the tabulated value 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance with 598 degree of freedom. The graphical representation has been shown in figure 1.

Figure 1

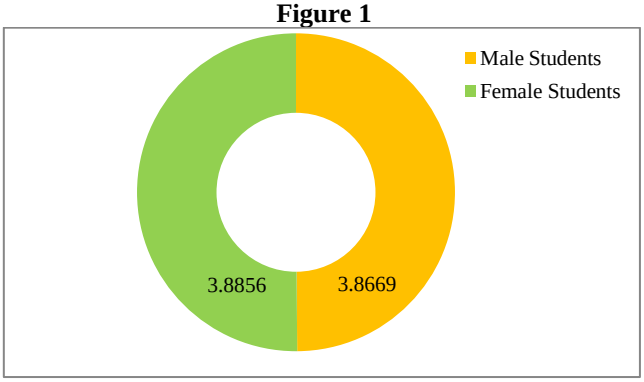

Fig. 1 Comparison of Outlook towards Computers between Male and Female Physical Education students from Higher Education Institutions in India

V. Discussions of Finding

In this present study, The insignificant difference between male and female students of Physical Education towards computers may be because the modern generation is Teksavvy. Now any student may be placed under the category of illiterate if he/she is unable to use computer as well as internet in discharging day today functions of life. Gone are the days when male students were given preference but today male and females are treated alike in India and all such facilities that are provided to males are equally provided to females also. The government agencies too have played a significant role in making females realise their worth that they are as good as male population if not better.

The finding of the study are in consonance with the findings of **Wong and Atan (2007)** and **Evangelos and Panagiotis (2008)**.

VI. Conclusion and Recommendation

As Information Technology becomes more ubiquitous in our everyday lives, educational settings are being transformed where educators and students are expected to teach and learn, using the technology. Educational institutions around the world are beginning to recognize the potential of Information Technology in pedagogy. With the widespread influence of computers and Information Technology in education, the researcher undertook the study to determine the outlook of male and female students of Physical Education towards computers in Indian Higher Education Institutions.

The analysis of data between outlook of male and female students of Physical Education towards computers revealed that there was insignificant difference between male and female students as calculated 't' value .455 was found much lower than the tabulated value of 1.96. So, it is revealed that, Male and female students pursuing Master of Physical Education possess similar outlook computers in Indian Higher Education Institutions.

The study recommends to the higher education's institutions as well as government to vigorously pursue the ICT policy to the fullest. Parents are also encouraged to assist their wards and children to have access to computers at home as long as the government policy has not covered every Institution in India. Finally, the teachers are advised to encourage the male and female students to improve more on their outlooks toward computer education.

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